Sakura no Sono

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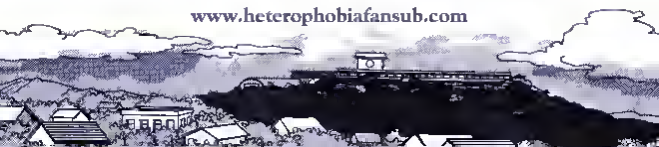
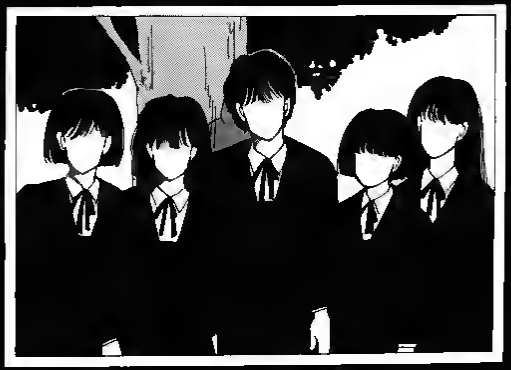


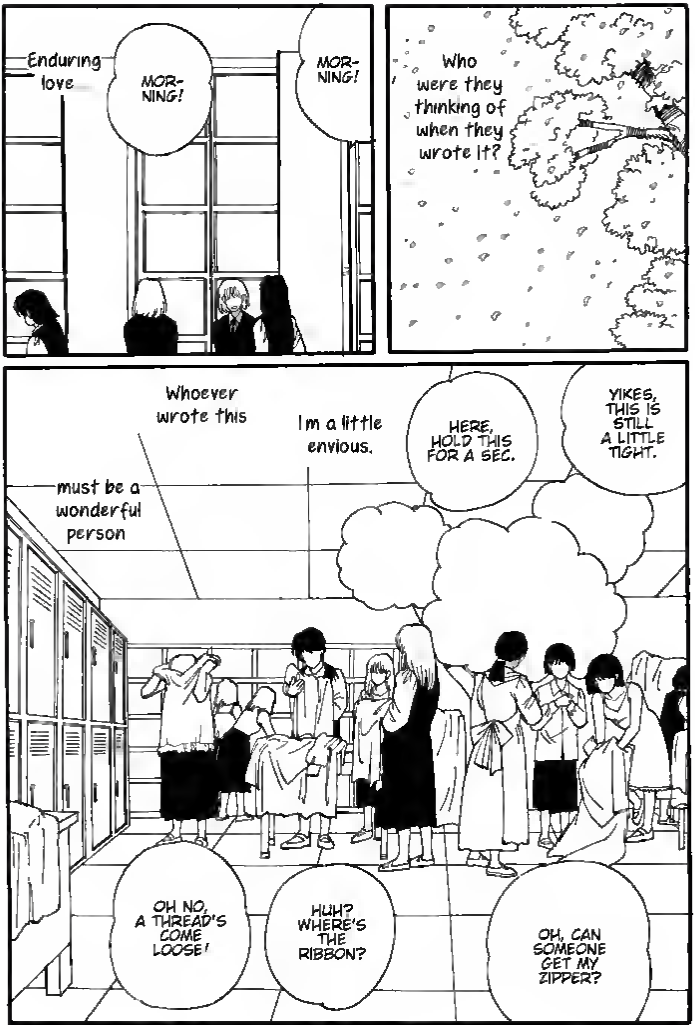
Flower Storm

It was always the same.
Whenever I took a photo with friends,
I'd unconsciously hunch my shoulders.



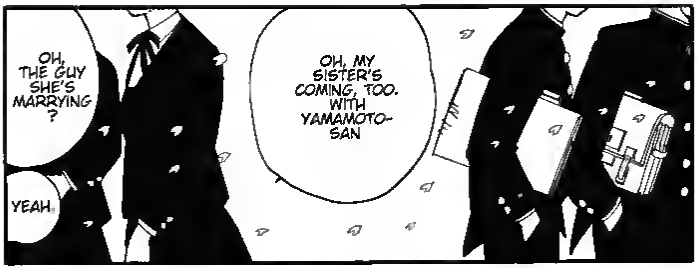
HUH?
There's something written on my desk...
HUH? OH NOTHING HANG ON A SEC
WHAT IS IT?
Scattered by the breeze,
tachibana petals flutter onto my sleeves,
reminding me of your love

I'm pretty sure I remember a poem like this.
from the Manyoshu...
Oh... this is...
How long have these faded pencil marks been here?
I wonder who wrote this poem of enduring love
I hadn't even noticed... even though it was my own desk.
OH! HANG ON, HANG ON! I'M COMING!
CLATTER
CHIYO, WE'RE LEAVING!


Enduring love
MOR-NING!
MOR-NING!
Who were they thinking of when they wrote it?
Whoever wrote this must be a wonderful person
I'm a little envious.
HERE, HOLD THIS FOR A SEC.
YIKES, THIS IS STILL A LITTLE TIGHT.
OH NO, A THREAD'S COME LOOSE!
HUH? WHERE'S THE RIBBON?
OH, CAN SOMEONE GET MY ZIPPER?

OH, REALLY?
UM, THIS IS STILL A LITTLE TIGHT IN THE CHEST..
I TOOK IT OUT QUITE A LOT.
SENSEI ...
THIS USED TO BE REALLY BAGGY.
KIDS THESE DAYS SURE ARE BIG.
HA HA HA
O-OK..
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO
THERE'S NO TIME TO FIX IT NOW, THOUGH
pat
Ugh, I feel like everyone's staring at my chest..
ALL RIGHT, LET'S TAKE IT FROM THE TOP
WH-WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WOW, CHIYO, YOU SURE ARE STACKED.

JUST 5 MORE DAYS..
KURATA-SAN, DON'T HUNCH YOUR SHOULDERS!
STAND UP STRAIGHT NOW!
HEY, ATSUKO, IS SHIN-CHAN COMING?
IT'S SO EXCITING.
WELL, HE SAID HE WOULD.
OH YEAH? IF THEY'RE CUTE, YOU BETTER INTRODUCE ME.
HE SAID HE'S BRINGING SOME FRIENDS

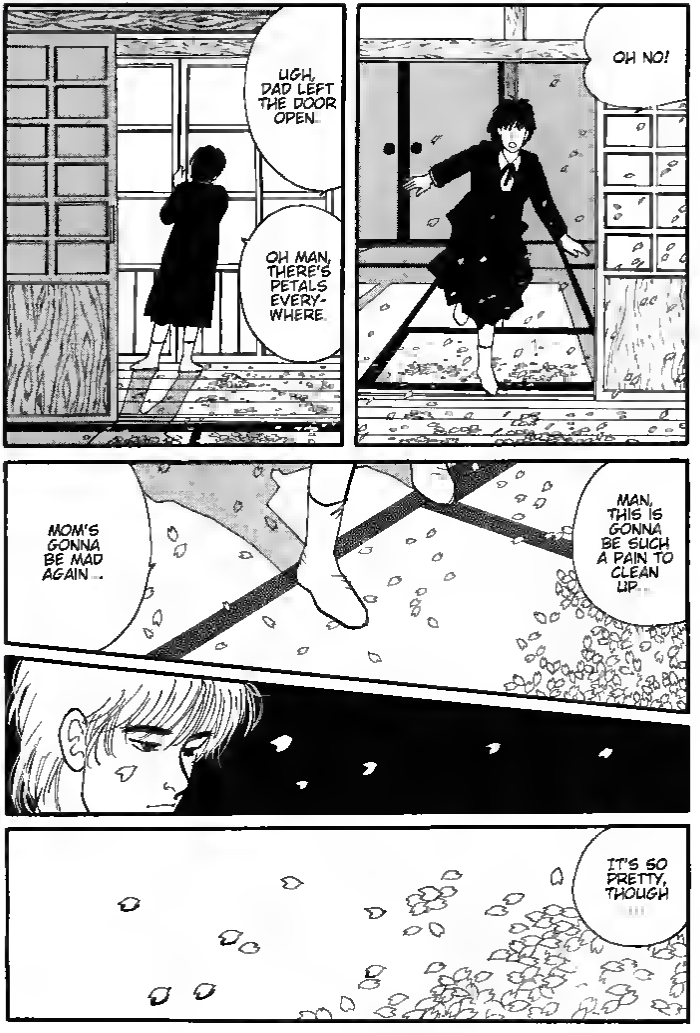

OH, THE GUY SHE'S MARRYING?
YEAH.
OH, MY SISTER'S COMING, TOO. WITH YAMAMOTO-SAN

Whenever I see him, he makes me want to curl up and I find myself unconsciously hunching my shoulders again.

I'm the only one who can't seem to stand on tiptoe.

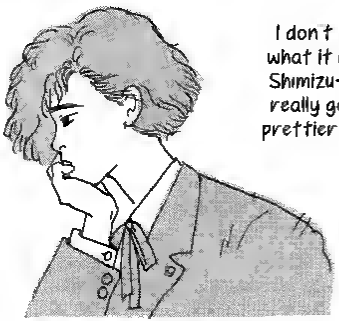
OH, LOOKS LIKE DAD'S HOME.

rattle
I'M HOME


UGH, DAD LEFT THE DOOR OPEN...
OH MAN, THERE'S PETALS EVERY-WHERE.
OH NO!
MOM'S GONNA BE MAD AGAIN...
MAN, THIS IS GONNA BE SUCH A PAIN TO CLEAN UP...
IT'S SO PRETTY, THOUGH...

SHE GOT CALLED INTO THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE.
HM?
HEY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT SHIMIZU-SAN?
☆ The Cherry Orchard
Cast of Characters
Ranevsky..... Kurata Chiyoko
Anya..... Nakano Kyoko
Varya..... Inoue Mie
Dunyasha..... Shimizu Yuko
Yasha..... Sugiyama Noriko
SHH!
BUT I HEARD SHE GOT A PERM
LIKE, A REALLY OBVIOUS ONE.
MM, I ONLY HEARD ABOUT IT FROM CHIKA-CHAN,
SO I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS.
WHAT? NO WAY!
SHIMIZU-SAN? WHY?
CLACK

WOW! WHAT HAPPENED? THAT'S SO COOL!
IT'S TRUE
RIGHT? NO WONDER SHE GOT IN TROUBLE.
..
THOSE TWO... ARE REALLY CLOSE THESE DAYS.
I LOVE IT! IT REALLY SUITS YOU!


I don't know what it is, but Shimizu-san's really gotten prettier lately.

She's looking my way again.
I've noticed Shimizu-san staring at me a lot lately.
"How's business? Has the interest been paid?"
It's not just my imagination.
"I saw the wretch."
FAREWELL.
FARE-WELL.
It makes it hard to pay attention.
I keep thinking about her.
Jeez, what's up with her?

"The Cherry Orchard" Act 1- Varya & Anya's conversation

IT SEEMS PRETTY TIGHT.
HUH?
THAT DRESS.
LEMME SEE
squeeze
AHAHA... IT MAY NOT BE OBVIOUS, BUT MY BOOBS ARE ACTUALLY PRETTY BIG.
THAT'S A RELIEF.
YOU'RE ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS ME.
SH-SH-SHIMIZU-SAN!!
OH WOW, YOU'RE RIGHT.

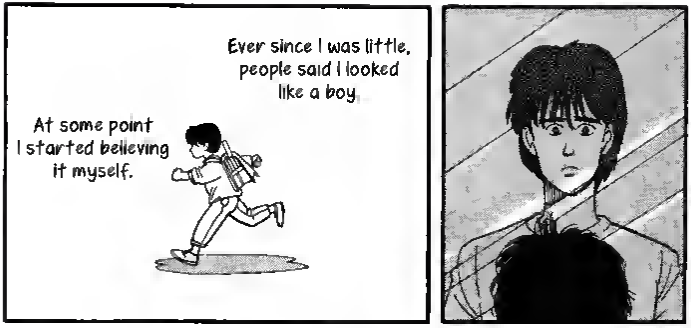
YOU WERE PRETTY BOYISH
I ALWAYS THOUGHT
HUH?
OH, WHAT'S WRONG?
BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY QUITE FEMININE.
NOTHING...

?
I MIGHT ...
I MIGHT QUIT THE DRAMA CLUB.
MIGHT... THAT'S ALL.
WHAT!?

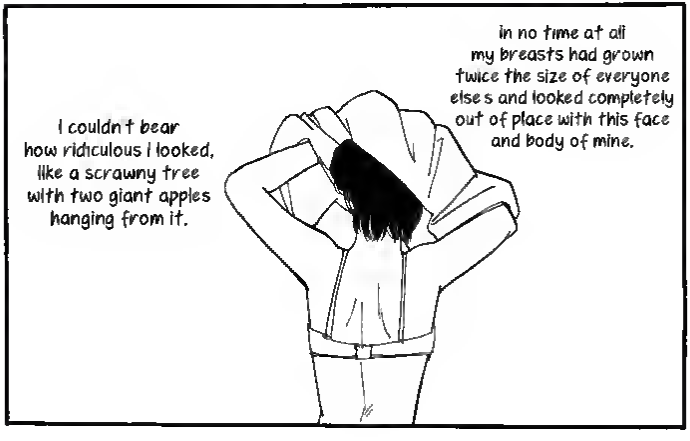
IF YOU QUIT,
WHO'LL BE THE CLUB PRESIDENT!?
BUT...
YOU COULD DO IT.
WHAT? ME? NO WAY, I COULDN'T!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M PRETTY FLAKEY...
I MEAN, I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE LIKE YOU.
I COULD NEVER KEEP EVERYONE IN LINE...

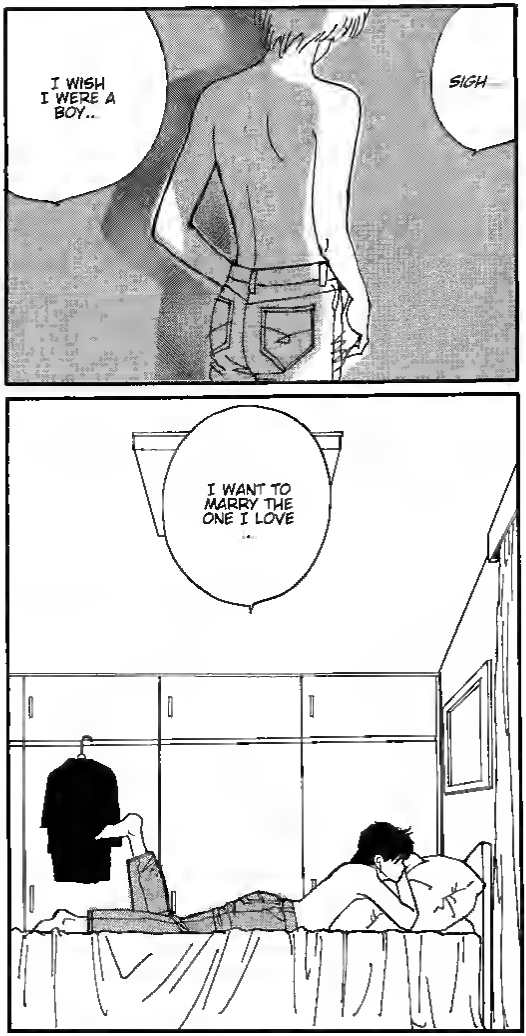
I..
I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE
IF IT LOOKS THAT WAY, IT'S JUST APPEARANCES
I'M JUST NOT.
I'M REALLY NOT.
SHUT
GOODBYE

But appearances are important.
"I'm really not," she said in a kind of sing-song voice.
I mean, I fell for a guy who looks like a teen idol.
...



But God is cruel.


In no time at all my breasts had grown twice the size of everyone else's and looked completely out of place with this face and body of mine.
I couldn't bear how ridiculous I looked, like a scrawny tree with two giant apples hanging from it.

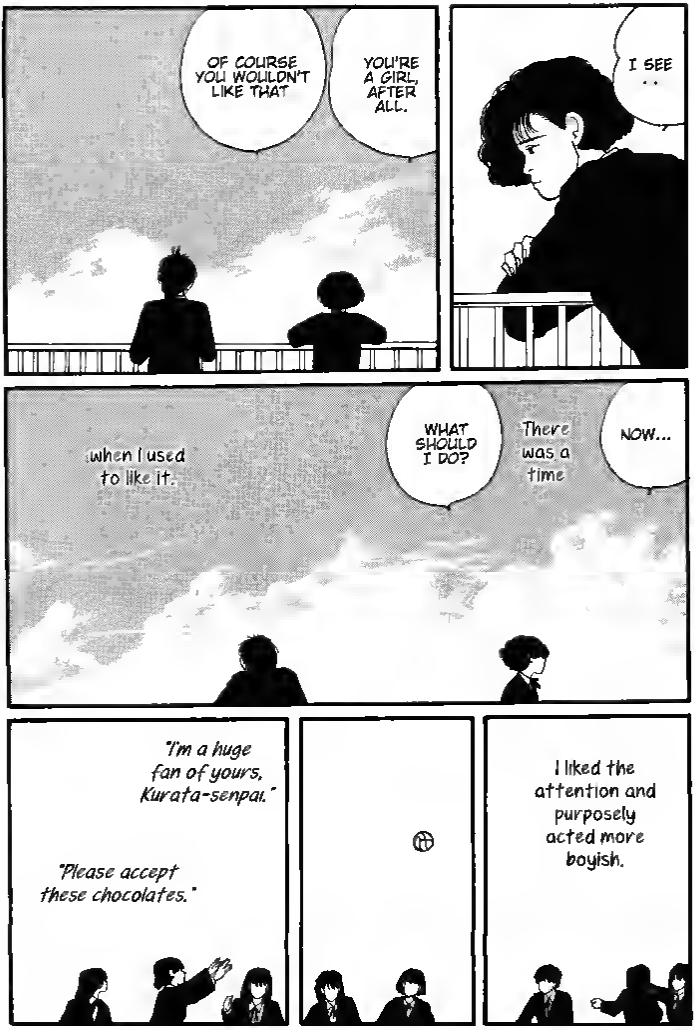

I WISH I WERE A BOY..
SIGH
I WANT TO MARRY THE ONE I LOVE ..
MORNING!
MORNING.

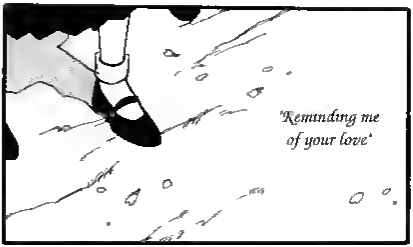
So she wasn't joking
SHIMIZU-SAN TOLD THE TEACHER SHE WANTS TO QUIT THE DRAMA CLUB.
HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
NO WAY!
I BET THE TEACHERS SAID SOMETHING TO HER ABOUT HER PERM AND THAT'S WHY.
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT, THOUGH.
THEN WHO'LL BE PRESIDENT?
SHE'S IN THE UPCOMING PLAY, TOO.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! NOT AFTER YOU'VE PUT ALL THIS TIME INTO IT!!
HEY, ARE YOU REALLY QUITTING!?
SHI-MIZU-SAN.

COME WITH ME!
HEY, I'M SERIOUS!
YOU'VE FINALLY STOPPED BEING SO POLITE WITH ME.
MY HAIR.
YOU KNOW...
DID THEY SAY SOMETHING TO YOU?
BUT THE TEACHERS...
WELL, I WOULDN'T MIND STAYING ON.
ARE THEY STUPID?
THESE DAYS HAVING A PERM'S NO BIG DEAL!
WHAT? THAT'S NONSENSE.
AS CLUB PRESIDENT BLAH BLAH BLAH...

I COULDN'T DO IT...
HUH..? I..
I REALLY DO THINK YOU'D MAKE A GOOD PRESIDENT, THOUGH.
IT'D JUST BE TOO MUCH OF A CLICHE
NO...THAT'S NOT IT..
TOO MUCH TROUBLE?
AND THEN ALL THE YOUNGER GIRLS GO CRAZY OVER ME...
AND THERE'S NOT THAT MANY GIRLS WHO CAN PLAY GUY ROLES.
BUT IT'S A GIRLS SCHOOL, YOU KNOW?
I'M NOT SAYING THIS TO BRAG.
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO GO ON TO DO TAKARAZUKA OR ANYTHING...

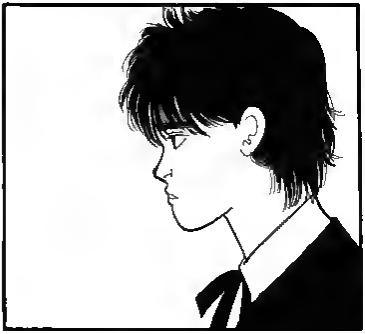
Note: Takarazuka Revue is an all-female musical theater troupe.

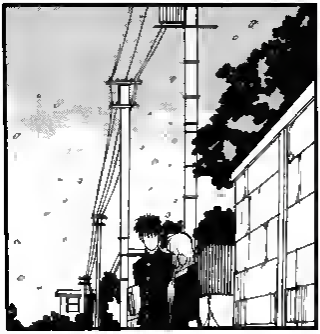

OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T LIKE THAT
YOU'RE A GIRL, AFTER ALL.
I SEE . .
when I used to like it.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
There was a time
NOW...
"I'm a huge fan of yours, Kurata-senpai."
"Please accept these chocolates."
I liked the attention and purposely acted more boyish.



"Love".

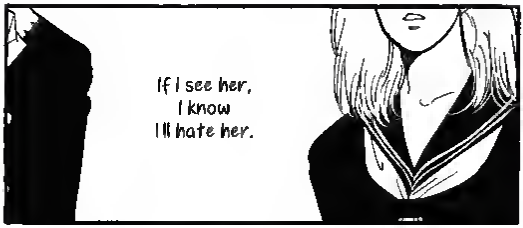
Such a vague word, offered to men and women alike.



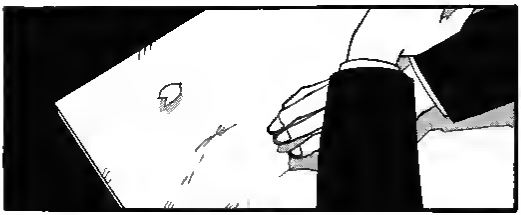


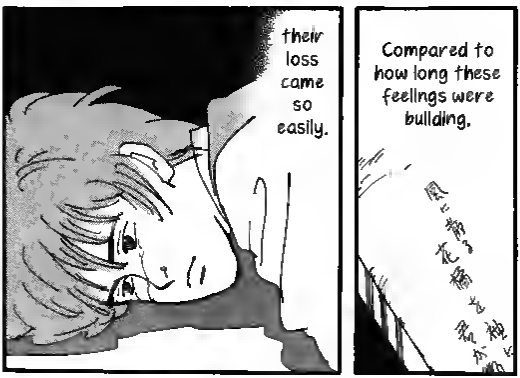
HUH?
LET'S CROSS THE STREET.
OH, THAT GIRL...
COME ON, LET'S JUST CROSS THE STREET.
God is indeed cruel.
OH, THAT'S..
JEEZ, DON'T STARE.
THAT GIRL...
OH...
Please don't notice me.
Please just keep walking.
SHE MIGHT EVEN BE HIS SISTER OR SOMETHING!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M SURE SHE'S JUST A FRIEND.
SHH!

STOP IT!!
I'M GONNA GO TAKE A LOOK AT HER FACE!
I don't want to see what she looks like.
Just seeing her from behind is more than enough.
UH ..
I don't want to see her face.
SORRY.
I don't want to see. I don't want to see.
IT'S NOTHING. SORRY!



She's probably the sort of delicate girl who would suit a boy like him.





HM?
OH, WHAT?
SORRY, I'VE GOT SOMETHING IN MY EYE
HEY, KURATA-SAN..
OH GOOD, YOU DIDN'T LEAVE YET
..HEY, WOULD YOU COME UP ON THE ROOF WITH ME FOR A BIT?
I'VE GOT SOMETHING GOOD
SOME-THING GOOD?
WHAT IS IT?
A SURPRISE
BRING YOUR COSTUME.
HEY, WHAT'VE YOU GOT?
HERE
WOW, THAT'S CUTE!

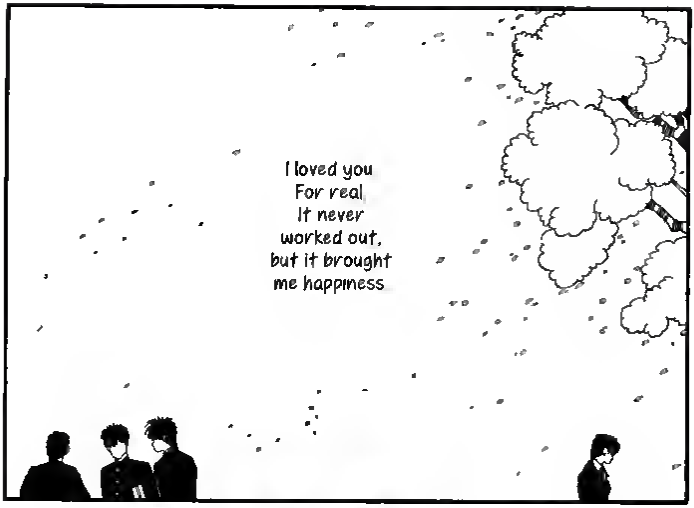
...
GIVE IT HERE.
I'LL SEW IT ON. I BROUGHT A NEEDLE AND THREAD.
THIS WILL BOTH ACT AS AN ACCENT AND HELP HIDE YOUR CHEST.
MY CHEST'S GIVEN ME NOTHING BUT TROUBLE SINCE I WAS LITTLE
I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY BIG, TOO.
I THOUGHT IT WAS A BAD THING.
I WAS TOLD I WAS "GROWING UP TOO FAST". AND STRANGE MEN WOULD TRY TO FEEL ME UP

I ALWAYS HUNCH MY SHOULDERS WHEN I WALK.
I'M
TALL ON TOP OF THAT.
SO I REALLY STAND OUT WHEN I'M WITH EVERYONE ELSE...
I'VE
ALWAYS ENVIED YOU, KURATA-SAN.
HUH?
I MEAN, YOU'RE SO BOYISH. I FIGURED THAT SORT OF THING WOULD BE TOTALLY FOREIGN TO YOU.

I WISH
I...
I'D BEEN BORN A LITTLE MORE FEMININE...
LIKE ATSUKO... OR YOU.
THEY ALWAYS JUST SAY I'M "RESPONSIBLE".
I'VE NEVER ONCE BEEN CALLED FEMININE OR CUTE.
EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER ONCE WANTED TO BE CALLED THAT.
ME?

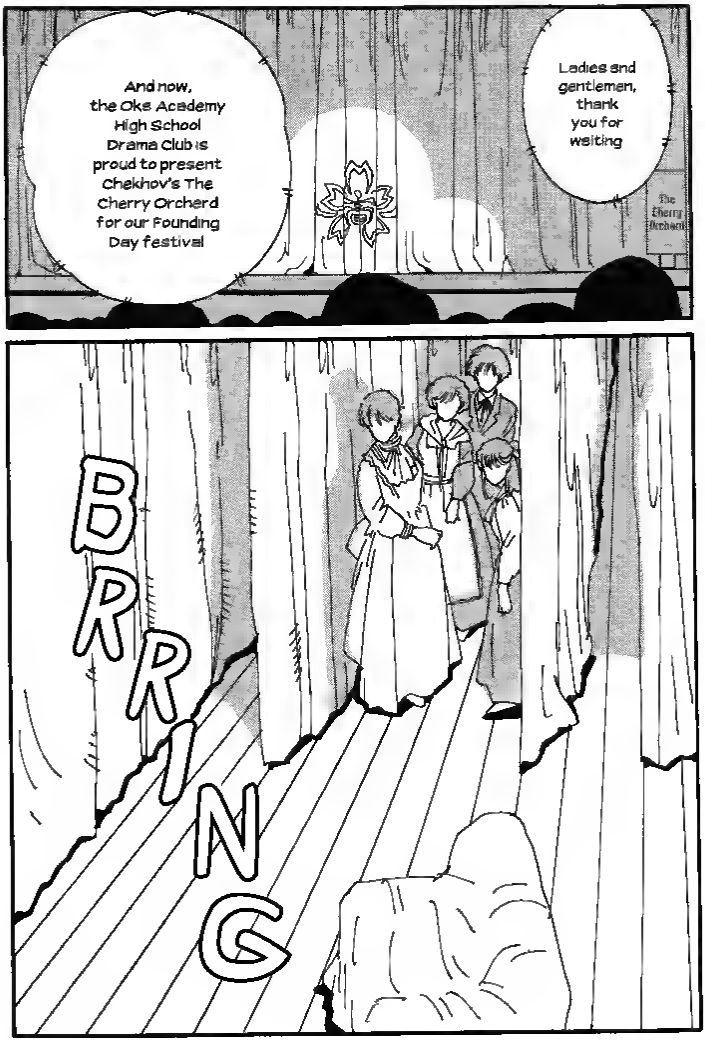
SEE? THIS'LL HELP HIDE...
THERE, DONE!
DOES IT HAVE TO BE A BOY?
WOULD SOMEONE LIKE ME THEN...?
IF I WERE SMALLER AND MORE FEMININE,
DO I NOT COUNT?
I LIKE YOU.

YEAH.
I LIKE YOU.
YEAH, YOU COUNT
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY SAY IT AGAIN
I LOVE YOU.
YEAH...
FOR REAL
I LIKE YOU.
I LOVE YOU.

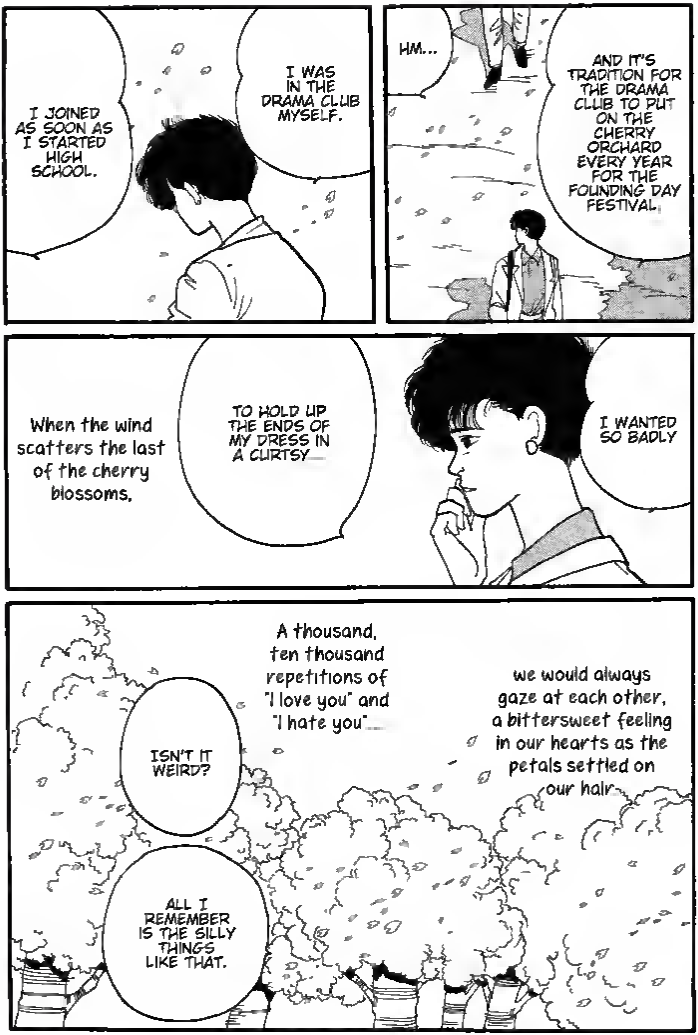

I loved you
For real
It never
worked out,
but it brought
me happiness

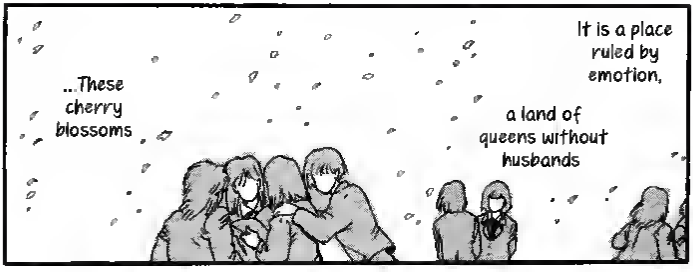
WISH I HAD A GOOD BODY.
YOU'RE SO TALL, YOU CAN REALLY PULL IT OFF.
WOW, YOU LOOK INCREDIBLE, CHIYO!
You've all got such nice dresses. How come I'm the only one who has to play a guy ?
GOOD LUCK, MA'AM.
GOOD LUCK, MOTHER.
GOOD LUCK, ANYA, DUNYASHA.

GET THAT CORD OUT OF THE WAY!
I WONDER IF SHIN-CHAN'S HERE.
HEY, YOU!
STAGE LEFT READY?
10 MINUTES TILL CURTAIN, EVERYONE! HURRY UP!
OK!
YEAH
IT'S ALMOST TIME
YEAH...
GOOD LUCK.
YIKES! WHAT AM I GONNA DO!?
WOW, THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE OUT THERE...


Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for waiting
And now, the Oks Academy High School Drama Club is proud to present Chekhov's The Cherry Orchard for our Founding Day festival
The Cherry Orchard
BRRING

Brrrrrrrr
OH.
NO, THEY ALWAYS LOCK THE FRONT DOOR AS SOON AS THE PLAY STARTS.
CAN'T WE GET IN?
OH, I KNEW IT. I WAS OFF BY 30 MINUTES!
OH NO!
OH, ATSUKO'S GOING TO BE SO CROSS WITH ME.
I CAN'T BELIEVE ALL THESE CHERRY TREES
RIGHT?
THEY PLANT A NEW TREE WITH EACH GRADUATING CLASS.
I KNOW WHERE WE CAN GET IN THROUGH THE BACK
BUT JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.
AFTER ALL, I SPENT 6 YEARS HERE.


I JOINED AS SOON AS I STARTED HIGH SCHOOL.
I WAS IN THE DRAMA CLUB MYSELF.
HM...
AND IT'S TRADITION FOR THE DRAMA CLUB TO PUT ON THE CHERRY ORCHARD EVERY YEAR FOR THE FOUNDING DAY FESTIVAL.
When the wind scatters the last of the cherry blossoms,
TO HOLD UP THE ENDS OF MY DRESS IN A CURTSY...
I WANTED SO BADLY
A thousand, ten thousand repetitions of "I love you" and "I hate you"...
we would always gaze at each other, a bittersweet feeling in our hearts as the petals settled on our hair.
ISN'T IT WEIRD?
ALL I REMEMBER IS THE SILLY THINGS LIKE THAT.



are the crowns upon our heads.